

## City Hall Park Questionnaire

The following are sorted responses to a questionnaire distributed to area workers and residents in the fall of 2005. It is not statistically valid. The responses were overwhelmingly from King County employees. However, it gives a good summary of current views of the largest potential user group (government employees.)

Increasing the feeling of safety is the greatest desire.

### What respondents would most like to do (or have happen) in the Park

- ♦ **Feel safe in a clean environment.**
- ♦ **They hope for a place where they can safely have lunch and engage in passive recreation (reading, sitting etc.)**
- ♦ **Most were skeptically hopeful that anything could be done to improve the park, and only through increased enforcement.**
- ♦ **A little less than 25% of the respondents wanted event or music of some sort.**
- ♦ **A smaller amount wanted some active recreational component.**

<b>Passive Recreation – An overwhelming majority (183) would like to simply enjoy being out in the park, reading or talking.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sit and enjoy the day</li><li>• Be able to sit on a bench and enjoy the sunshine or read a book</li><li>• Visit with people</li><li>• Watch people</li><li>• Watch kids play</li></ul>
<b>Lunch – A large number of people (114) would like to use the park for lunch during the nice weather (some event in the rain if shelter was provided)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sit and eat lunch in a safe, comfortable outdoor environment</li><li>• Purchase coffee/snacks from mobile stand</li></ul>
<b>Safety - 66 mentioned that they would like the park to feel safer.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be able to walk through it without fearing my or my family's safety</li><li>• Not to have a parade of aggressive panhandlers asking you for money as you go out to get lunch.</li><li>• Get rid of drinking</li><li>• Get rid of the drug dealing</li><li>• Be comfortable from the standpoint of taking a break or going there for lunch</li></ul>
<b>Music/Events – 57 people mentioned their desire to hear music, see art displays or listen to speeches/political speakers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Art show – northwest artist</li><li>• Listen to interesting speeches, debates, comics, etc – not just bands.</li><li>• Listen to the summer concerts outside vs at City Hall, at least when the weather</li></ul>

permits.
<b>Active Uses – 37 people mentioned active recreation opportunities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk/run around a path</li> <li>• Play chess</li> <li>• Tables and games like chess or checkers</li> <li>• Play with kids on jungle gym features</li> <li>• Concern about basketball, skateboarding, dog off leash area etc. due to noise or lack of security</li> </ul>
<b>Sanitation - 12 People mentioned the need for increased sanitation (although many of the comments mentioned sanitation)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get rid of urinating</li> <li>• Get rid of defecation</li> <li>• Pick up litter and garbage</li> </ul>

### **What features respondents would most like to see in the Park.**

- ♦ Striking landscaping and trees.
- ♦ Benches, safety, more interesting landscaping, and security improvements followed by increased maintenance were the top priorities for improvements.
- ♦ A large number want some water feature.

<b>Landscaping/Trees – 93 people mentioned the need for more striking and interesting landscaping such as flowers and shrubs.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visually striking when seen from other area</li> <li>• Many love the trees and some want more sunlight</li> <li>• Lots of clean, healthy, well maintained grass</li> <li>• Nice landscaping (not high maintenance) with some kind of Flower areas such as a rose garden for year round appeal.</li> </ul>
<b>Seating/Tables 77</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots and lots of clean, comfortable seating that is “work clothes friendly” for eating in the park at lunchtime. I don’t want to have to “beat others” to a reasonable place to sit</li> <li>• Wide stairs, It doesn’t have to be all benches.</li> <li>• Bistro style tables</li> <li>• Seating that’s not focused on groups</li> <li>• Circular benches with dividers (like in downtown Portland) to discourage transients sleeping on the park benches.</li> </ul>
<b>Sense of Security - 65</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law enforcement – it will take security guards all day to curtail the drinking, fighting and drug dealing. Funding for security is very crucial.</li> <li>• Signage with history, rules and laws</li> </ul>
<b>Fountain 44</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large water fountain at the park’s center with axial walkways connecting in all</li> </ul>

<p>directions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a waterfall or rapids stream through the park as a theme to emphasize typical NW beauty.</li> <li>• A “destination” fountain. Not some cheesy piece of junk</li> <li>• Water feature – one that helps dampen the city noise may attract targeted park users</li> <li>• A choreographed water fountain like Seattle Center would be a draw for sightseers, neighborhood kids etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Active Uses 34</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Biking/rollerblade path</li> <li>• Exercise workstations</li> <li>• Children’s playground</li> <li>• Chess and backgammon boards</li> <li>• Dog run</li> <li>• No basketball courts, bocce courts, skateboard</li> </ul>
<b>Art 31</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artwork – northwest</li> <li>• Make the park a major attraction with its unique beauty. Create imaginative and impressive objects and sculpture to typify the Northwest.</li> <li>• Sidewalk art displays</li> <li>• A big clock, something artistic</li> <li>• Historical walking maps on attractive, sturdy panels. Historical timelines of Seattle and Pioneer Square</li> </ul>
<b>Food/Concessions 30</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vendor carts – hot dogs, shaved ice, espresso</li> <li>• The park is a good place to replace the area lost to the low income feeding programs. An area should be set up for this on perhaps the 4th avenue side.</li> <li>• NOT be mobbed by street vendors or artists trying to sell something</li> <li>• Maybe a farmers market</li> <li>• Allow push cart vendors, i.e. food flowers, crafts, etc. Make it a meeting/market place.</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance 29</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure it is clean so one can sit on a bench and feel that it is a clean environment</li> <li>• The waste smell eliminated</li> <li>• Staff to keep it clean and the facilities to keep it clean (nice waste containers)</li> </ul>
<b>Restroom 23</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take away the portable toilets</li> <li>• Toilet control – not the hi-tech ones the City tried. So is the porta-potty at 4<sup>th</sup> and Toilet facilities</li> <li>• Adequate facilities (No portable toilet).</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Music/Performance 18</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage like Volunteer Park to facilitate performances and events</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• A gazebo or bandstand</li> <li>• Frequent scheduled events (concerts, public art showings, political or other speakers of interest) would attract more people and make it a better used space.</li> </ul>
<b>Paths/Hardscape 13</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe walkways</li> <li>• Feet-friendly surfaces</li> <li>• Be able to walk through it when the tunnel opens again</li> <li>• Smaller, more elegant walkways</li> <li>• Park entrances that convey you are a guest in a special place, monitored by an on-site concierge.</li> <li>• A large open area that could be used to serve meals.</li> </ul>
<b>Covered Area 10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gazebo</li> <li>• Covered picnic areas that can be reserved for functions, meetings and other gatherings</li> <li>• Couple of covered areas (small for three or four persons) and maybe a larger one for others with section, not the whole park.</li> <li>• A covered shelter</li> <li>• Some covered spaces</li> <li>• Warm, safe, dry, clean and comfortable</li> <li>• Overhead shelter</li> <li>• Covered area for smoking in the snow and rain</li> </ul>
<b>Lighting 10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light it up at night! Surround the park with those fancy “old school” lamp posts you installed around the municipal building/courthouse. Put in visible security (even if fake) cameras on the lamp posts.</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More pleasant connection to the courthouse – maybe with a courtyard to draw out office workers.</li> <li>• Gates to close for the hours it is unattended.</li> <li>• Fencing off the park seems like an exclusionary strategy.</li> </ul>

## Comments on the Draft Vision

The general comments on the vision can be summarized “Such a grand vision. My vision is tempered by the view outside my window.” There is skepticism that any improvements absent addressing security and homeless will not succeed.

- ♦ The vision and objectives identified above for the City Hall Park improvements are important ones for King County employees, jurors, local residents, bus riders, tourists and others who deserve a public space that is safe, sanitary, and inviting. I am grateful to Mayor and members of the City Hall Park Team for their efforts to fund and develop a public space that meets those objectives. I am particularly pleased that the newly developed park will be monitored by an on-site concierge to increase the probability that the space can indeed be utilized by more than one group for recreational purposes.
- ♦ At the same time, I am hopeful that the current parks users have access to facilities (housing, restrooms, showers, etc.) to offset their need to use limited downtown park space for non-recreational purposes. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the City Hall Park.
- ♦ Multi colored lighting which is angled to enhance and illuminate not only the park but maybe the courthouse façade as well. Lighting could also incorporate motion sensors to provide differing visual effects as well as aide those passing by at night. This could also incorporate ground work of multi colored and patterned stone/pavers.
- ♦ Merchant kiosks: Walk up entities that have a local flavor - Starbucks, newsstand, Krispy Cream etc. It would also include an information booth to aid the many non regulars that travel into Seattle such as jurors and courthouse patrons and may have apprehensions about getting around town.
- ♦ Active policing presence 24 hours a day. During business hours maybe they could dress in the Constable uniforms that were once used in Pioneer Square during the tourist season.
- ♦ Since this is a joint effort between city and county and is to tie in the "Seattle/Puget Sound Gateway" theme, maybe the new water path between police headquarters and city hall could also be routed to include this park in some fashion. It would be neat if this could eventually even end up down in Occidental Square/waterfall park or even in some small way back into Puget Sound (thou I know this is a bit much to expect under the current budget-just food for future thought).
- ♦ Having worked at the courthouse for almost 18 years, I have often been annoyed by the condition of the park and the fact that it is so unavailable for workers/tourists/ general Seattlites to enjoy. I remember when they did the park improvements a few years ago but the park quickly reverted back to its former state of disrepair and neglect. It often feels that it is not even safe to walk across the park and one night a couple of years ago, as I leaving work in the dark, about 5 p.m., a denizen of the park ran up to me, began yelling at me, throwing garbage at my car and generally behaving in a threatening and unpredictable manner. Unfortunately, this park is only a place to avoid and to beware when traveling by or through. I love the idea of a

user-friendly, safe and most importantly clean park that can be utilized by a diversity of the population. Clearly an on-site concierge would have to be a part of the new park vision, both in order to maintain order in the park and to monitor the traffic in and out of the park. There is a small park in Pioneer Square (?waterfall park) that is monitored and it is safe, clean and inviting and a pleasant place to lunch or read. I would like to see this in the park next to the courthouse.

- ♦ The vision is ambitious. It will be difficult to achieve now that the courthouse will not be integrated with the park. I would include in the vision not just workers, but the hundreds of jurors who are at the courthouse each week.
- ♦ Sounds great!
- ♦ Sounds great if it works, would love to eat outside for a change
- ♦ I'm happy to see this happening, yes the homeless need a place to stay, but I work in the Courthouse and I never think of spending time there. I came to work today at 6:15 am, the park was full of people sleeping, waking up, not a very pleasant sight.
- ♦ The park as it sits today would be better utilized if patrols kept out the alcoholic, drug dealing, obnoxious people. This is what keeps us from using the park. I've worked in the Courthouse for 26 plus years and have only used the park a few times due to the "activity" there. I would love to be able to sit out there and enjoy the weather, read, socialize with co-workers etc but I don't enjoy views of porta-potty, drug dealing, drunks etc nor do I like being approached by them. Use the money to add patrols that remove the "unwanted" rather than redesigning it.
- ♦ I like the vision, but implementation is the issue. Hopefully, your team has already acknowledged what is completely obvious – the way to immediately improve the park is to have police officers there 24 – 7. I have worked next to the park for 12 years. On a daily basis I see assaults drug deals and highly intoxicated people. You'll need to stop this activity to be able to use this park. I applaud your team for taking on this issue. Many people feel very unsafe in this area. We at the Courthouse have often commented on what a shame it is that the park cannot be used by those who work at the Courthouse. Right now, no one would dream of sitting out there and having lunch.
- ♦ Hopefully, the "on-site concierge" will not be a glorified security person who make homeless people feel unwanted. Also it is fine that the park is a "destination for tourists" but please remember that homeless people are citizens too. I hope that in trying to appeal to tourists that we don't make the park a homeless unfriendly place.
- ♦ And yet, you know that the homeless population is indeed a part of the downtown community. Edible plantings and landscaping would supplement the diets of vulnerable people downtown and would add to the attractiveness of the park for all users.
- ♦ If you are to have businesses that cater to the lunch crowd, please encourage locally owned businesses instead of franchises or box stores. Design should include less concrete and barriers than the waterfall 'park
- ♦ I work at an agency in this area. My bias is that I'd like people who don't have permanent housing to be welcome to hand outs. I can appreciate that we want everyone to feel safe. I do not know what the City's game plan is with tourists. My bias is that I'm not happy to see my clients not welcome in that park just so tourists will go there.

- ♦ A reality in this neighborhood is the homeless population. How can they be included in this design? Right now this park is dominated by this population and feels particularly welcome or safe, but neither should they be excluded.
- ♦ I like the vision – however an appointments secretary from a French hotel is hardly the individual to help keep a park dog and alcohol free.
- ♦ I would love it
- ♦ Sounds like a great idea. I would like to see the area fenced a bit more so that it would be safer for pets.
- ♦ The vision looks good. Please consider an open air market similar to the one held under the bridge in Portland.
- ♦ I think it's important for everyone concerned to have a place where there is active fun, and fellowship.
- ♦ Save our park from extremists who might want it to be used as a sleeping park.
- ♦ As a native of Seattle and a resident of the Frye, I know this vision is a worthy one; one which will help transform my neighborhood.
- ♦ Tourist attraction. Enough vendors in the park to get tourist trade and spend on cities.
- ♦ Why not spend the money getting more year-round shelter beds for the homeless who have nowhere to sleep except the park (formerly homeless citizen)
- ♦ To be attractive to tourists, local residents, visitors to downtown areas (the parks should meet their basic needs). Put in a police sub-station, metro bus information. Put a fence around the park.
- ♦ The on-site concierge is a great idea. The 16 hour day is also a good one.
- ♦ I'm concerned about the noise level of a basketball court outside the courthouse. As it is now, folks inside the courthouse are already bombarded with noise that rises from the park below.
- ♦ The park would be used now if you had cleanliness and security. I have heard a rumor that the plan is to include chopping down the trees. Please, please, DO NOT do that. If you want to make the park attractive, leave the trees. They provide shade on hot summer days, shelter from rain in all seasons, and are lovely during our rare snows. At all times, trees create a restful atmosphere and a visual feast.
- ♦ It needs to be locked up at night. No meal programs. No outhouses. There is a need for a restroom, as people otherwise do their business (bathroom and otherwise) in the bushes, doorways, and stairwells. Unless they are attended, however, they will always become an eyesore.
- ♦ My main concern is the preservation of the trees in City Hall Park – it is a green belt as important as the greenbelts of Queen Anne and Beacon Hill – also the historical aspect of the area should be preserved – certain improvements to facilitate greater utility of the space should be made. Though I think it is important to explore options to improve City Hall Park – I think it is very important to preserve the historical legacy of the space. It is an urban area that is surrounded by homeless – emergency services. This aspect is not going to disappear.

- ♦ All ideas are great, just need to make sure there is some type of presence that can monitor and enforce code of conduct within parks.
- ♦ Once upon a time I asked a London policeman for the fastest route to walk back to my hotel at midnight. “Why walk through the park, sir.” he replied in a snap. The police station was located in the middle of that park. Same was true in the park across the street from the house where I lived in St. Louis. I don’t propose we put a precinct house in our little par, but I tell the story to explain my comment: Don’t put those wonderful activities on the fringe of the park. Because it’s not such a big space, put them in its middle and the outer edges will take care of themselves very nicely. It’s the middle, the edge that needs to be protected when we plan our open public spaces.
- ♦ It will need constant security due to the area it is located. Concern over constant drug activity.
- ♦ Leave the basketball element out – it invites a rowdy group. I think this is going to be virtually impossible considering the Courthouse, due to the nature of its business, can do nothing to deter the rougher element of society.
- ♦ I am so excited about this. The park has long been an eyesore to those of us who work down here.
- ♦ This park will in honesty be mostly for County and City workers. I highly doubt anyone is heading down there on the weekend to hang out. To make it visually striking considering everything surrounding the area – you need a huge statue (MLK/Maynard/City Fathers) and/or totem pole or fountain – Not something you stumble upon while passing (cannonball/plaque), but something you see from a distance and draws you there. In my short time with the County I’ve witnessed countless drug deals, drug use, fights and two stabbings in this park. It’s time we claim it back from the lawlessness that seems drawn here. You might need to look at parks on the eastside. Instead of big lawns (inviting homeless to camp out) – build benches around the perimeter facing the center, then a fountain and/or short gravel maze in the middle where kids will play.
- ♦ Finally – thank you. Diversify the types of people who (at present) use the park. Implement a code of conduct.
- ♦ Dog park; something to integrate the homeless people and non-homeless people rather than ignoring the presence of both.
- ♦ I like the ideas particularly recreational elements (basketball!) I think it is very important that it be accessible to those who are already using the park (homeless persons). It would be helpful to have an open area that could be used for a meal program (as has been done in the past). As someone who works across the street from the park I find it disconcerting that this survey was not made available in a more direct way. I got it at the café 2 days before the due date.
- ♦ Great vision – just do it. Hey face the fact that “muscatel meadows” has been an eyesore for decades. Kick out the bums and give them jobs, and fix up the mosquito pond known as Prefontaine Fountain.
- ♦ The vision sounds like a good one. I wonder what happens to the main occupants of these spaces now (i.e. drug dealers and homeless). I would like these parks to be accessible to more people but would not like to see them “cleaned up” to the point of forcing out all those who use them now. Diplomatic and soft police presence seems



necessary. I really think a farmers market in one of these parks one or two days per week would bring new vitality to the area and provide a shopping alternative to residents and professionals. I've lived in other cities in areas of a diverse population if income level and culture where the market serves as a common ground.

- ♦ Sounds ideal. The porta-potty that is out there is nasty and often times overflowing. That is the main reason I have my children avoid walking through the park.
- ♦ As a neighborhood pet owner I'd love to see an off leash area close by. I think the Belltown OLA has improved the area enormously.
- ♦ I think the vision is fine; don't know how likely it is to happen though, considering current element—they have to be somewhere—that occupies the park now. I am wondering why we can afford a park concierge, when current units of County government—haven't received a personnel increase in 20+ years, and they are struggling to meet the needs of the public.
- ♦ We don't see the park as a destination so much as a crossroads – people on the way to use the tunnel, railroad station, to Chinatown. A beautiful green space with flowers, trees and a fountain would invite people to pause. This would also be a peaceful place for residents, workers and visitors
- ♦ I'd rather have a safe, clean, dry place to go than a tourist attraction. It would be nice to be able to eat lunch outside – I really don't care how “visually striking” it is.
- ♦ Having worked in this area for nearly 30 years I admit to skepticism that this space can ever be more the “muscatel meadows” so long as the alcoholism, drugs and poverty are not addressed. It can be a nice park if the “concierge is 6-7 armed officers or if the park is gated like Waterfall Park. I don't know if there ever can be a nice, usable park here consistent with democratic values of full assembly, etc, even for alcoholics, etc.
- ♦ Sounds great! Having places for lunch or also an exercise circuit would be really nice for those of us employed in the area.
- ♦ There were lots of improvements made a few years back. This area is used mainly by transients, homeless, shelter living people so other folks do not feel comfortable relaxing there. These folks do need a place to go and enjoy their time as they have no other place during the day to be. Shelter, missions so not allow them access to the buildings during the day or they prefer to mingle together. Where are these folks to go? Also there is no mention of restroom. This is much needed even though it can be an eyesore. It is not as bad as the port-a-potty that sits out by this courthouse for their use. These funds could be used for some type of daily refuge area for the folks that now are there. Also some cover area for them to stay dry. And the area where the fountain is by the Metro tunnel should be used or planted as it is an eyesore as you pass by and the street folks are just hanging around...not what a tourist would consider looking at our going near. I don't have answers but feel any new attraction would be misused by the folks that are now in the area and therefore not good use of the money \$\$ being spent and you would still not have a tourist, families and others using it.
- ♦ Yes, I think it will be a wonderful idea to have a park nearby, but what will happen to all the people that loiter around, drink and sleep there? Most people will not go there under those circumstances. Great idea, I hope it happens.
- ♦ I love the vision you set forward!

- ♦ Sounds fantastic. As long as it's clean and comfortable it would be nice to have a place close by to have lunch. My husband could bring the kids down on my lunch hour if there was a safe, fun place to hang out at. (The idea of a basketball court sounds neat too.) The problem is that in the summer there are too many transients hanging around, so I don't feel safe/comfortable in that area. I don't know how you would change that, but glad to hear you're trying.
- ♦ I walk through the park almost daily in order to attend meetings at King Street and 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am all for upgrading the park, but I am also concerned that the homeless will be moved out and would like see them have some place to gather.
- ♦ The vision is a good idea, however will never be successful unless the areas are gated off at night and patrolled during the work hours, and that is the first measure to start with. Unless you move out the drug activity and pan handlers, it is a joke to even think, let alone suggest that the park is a place that downtown workers, tourists, etc. would ever consider using. The unsafe and unsanitary conditions have long been unacceptable. Also, as I can recall, it seems like the City tried doing something similar in the past and look what the outcome have been so far.
- ♦ The vision sounds great; it is "how you get there" that is a concern.
- ♦ I would like to see a place where everyone is welcome but all day loitering and overnight camping is forbidden. A heated restroom would be great if it is designed to prevent loitering and protect users.
- ♦ Make sure it does not become a no man's land like the space south of the courthouse, or become urine/spit infested like the streets around the courthouse. This may be the time to experiment with a properly maintained/attended public bathroom.
- ♦ This is an admirable vision, one that will be supported by many/most people who work near this location. The challenge will be to transition/change the current "use" of the park, which is not very conducive to the key characteristics listed above.
- ♦ That would be nice but what are you planning to do with all the homeless people that hang out at the park all the time? It would be nice having a park close by to eat lunch if you can clean up the park and make it so it doesn't smell like a bathroom.
- ♦ Sounds lovely
- ♦ Anything that would draw more of the surrounding community and daytime workers to the park would be a plus. Right now, few if any of us feel safe or comfortable taking lunch in the park next to the courthouse for obvious reasons. This does not mean that we want the homeless or others just "moved" elsewhere (especially when there is nowhere) but it would be good if a mixed use be made possible so that commuters, workers and the many and frequent tourists to this part of town could feel like it was a park they could use – not avoid for safety or other reasons. I suspect that whatever you chose to do with the park, you will need to do something unusual to draw the local crowd back to the park –otherwise the umpteen years of non-use and safety concerns will keep most of us away. The on-site concierge is a great idea as would be a connection to the local history of this particular part of town. I see many tourists wandering the area with maps on their way to Pioneer Square, International District or wherever and they would love something visual and historical to connect them to this location. Plus there are a lot of daycare centers just blocks

from this park, but although we see the kids out on walks in groups, even in the winter – they are never at the park – it offers no activities for them.

- ♦ It would be nice to see some activities at the park, especially during the summer. An outside concert or some kind of cultural performance that people can watch during their lunch hour or on weekends to bring family and friends. Safety and cleanliness should be major concerns. It should be a park where you feel you don't have to step over bird droppings every step you take or be asked for money. There should be lots of trees, plants and sitting area that make you feel like you're not in the City, even for a moment.
- ♦ Sounds great!
- ♦ Great idea! The City needs more green spaces.
- ♦ Where do the current "residents" of the park go? Is there a plan for them?
- ♦ Anything other than the current use and appearance is welcome. If other means have failed and this is what it takes, I support it.
- ♦ Yes, thank you so much for this uplifting exciting goal/task. As a Seattle native (born in Swedish Hospital) it is embarrassing to have this park such a trashy, fearful condition. Currently, I avoid the area completely even though I work nearby.
- ♦ The vision for the park sounds very nice. It would be wonderful to have a green open oasis in the middle of all these tall buildings. I am concerned that the park would become an extension of the park on the other side of the courthouse which is overrun by residents who live at the Frye or Morrison.
- ♦ Sounds good, but no matter how the park changes, the positive image will not change the underlying problem of homelessness, drug addiction, poverty, untreated mental illness. I do not know how that can be done, nor does this City. It sounds like the concierge will move the problem elsewhere temporarily. Is that a good policy? When you consider who the neighbors are, it is a fairly representative neighborhood park already. If we put aside concerns about where the current residents of Muscatel Meadows go, then I think there are great opportunities in this location. City Hall Park used to be the front of the building. Unless the original entry to the courthouse – now the loading dock – is re-opened, this area will always be neglected and won't look like a gateway to anything.
- ♦ The vision is admirable. The space has such potential with the trees and wide grassy space, but it is currently a disgusting health hazard with litter, broken glass, bird and human fecal matter and public intoxication and urination. It is not a place I want to walk through with my children or to frequent other than to walk through hurriedly. I love this area of town. It is part of my life, my work neighborhood since 1991. The park has great potential to bring local residents and workers together. Right now people are afraid of the space, being harassed or injured.
- ♦ Wonderful idea!
- ♦ As a worker that goes through Pioneer Square daily, safety is of prime concern to me. More police presence is one of the ways to make me feel safer, good lighting and low lying landscaping can also help.
- ♦ It sounds like a great idea. How do you plan on dealing with the homeless that utilize the park? Currently, I find it uncomfortable to walk through that park. It doesn't

always feel safe and secure. In its current state, I don't think it gives a very good impression of our city to visitors. I would approve of any improvement.

- ♦ It all sounds good and I hope you are all successful. I expect it will be challenging and expensive project, although a worthwhile endeavor.
- ♦ The vision is everything I would like to see in the park. I don't know how it can be accomplished given the diverse group of users who have such conflicting purposes for using the park. I wouldn't care how visually striking the park turned out to be; if drugs, sexual activity, toilet activities, and panhandling occur there like they do now, then I would avoid it. I'm not very optimistic about how successful improving the atmosphere of the park will be in order to encourage tourists, families and workers given that an opposing element of people in this area will also be using the park – and rightfully so. A public park should be open for everyone, but if it's occupied by too many of one group then the other groups will stay away and we're back to what we have now. Unfortunately I am already frustrated and angry about the lack of patrol and policing surrounding the Courthouse. Blatant drug use, drug deals, crazy, erratic people molesting each other – who wants to go outside any more than you have to? It's disappointing and maddening that the office workers in this area have so few clean, safe places to have lunch and take breaks outside. I applaud the effort, but I don't see how beautification alone will attract the intended groups of people. The transients and drug dealers have taken over the surrounding areas and prevent many office workers from being able to use and enjoy the park. In my work area we call it "Muscatel Meadows" because of the atmosphere and inhabitants. It is really one big soggy urinal.
- ♦ I think chess tables doubling as lunch tables for employees and jurors would be a great idea. Also I think that tying the look of Occidental Park and Pioneer Square would keep the historical look of the area especially since the Courthouse was just restored, so having a cobblestone courtyard or something similar would look becoming and appropriate.
- ♦ I've been disappointed to go out for a work break and find nowhere to sit in any of the parks mentioned. Yes they have benches, but they're dirty and crowded. And they're crowded with people I'm not really interested in sitting next to due to the variety of visual clues. I'm thrilled you have a vision to create a more attractive entrance to downtown. My parents used to be so worried about my working at the Smith Tower, they asked me to carry pepper spray. Of course I wasn't as concerned as they and I didn't carry pepper spray, and I've never had an incident to cause me concern.
- ♦ Very ambitious, I am happy that you are focusing on the positive elements rather than basing your vision on keeping the transients and homeless population out of the park. But what is the plan for an alternative location for the displaced homeless and transient population that currently reside in this park when they are not allowed in shelters? Does the Mayor have a plan for providing toilet and showering facilities at this location?
- ♦ I'm concerned about the noise level of a basketball court outside the Courthouse. As it is now, folks inside the Courthouse are already bombarded with noises that rise from the park below. I love the concierge idea.
- ♦ The vision is fine, but it is unclear how certain issues will be addressed. For example, there is a convenient stairway just south of the park that connects to

Yesler. This stairway currently serves as a toilet facility for transients. The same problem exists in the area of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave that passes under Yesler. People do not want to walk to use the park if they have to walk through a toilet. Do the City and County have proactive plans to deal with the issues? Also the matter of the transients. I am not saying this in a way that is intended to blame the transients, but it is simply a fact that the vision for the park will not be realized unless families feel comfortable using the park. Having a concierge may not help, because currently there is round-the-clock law enforcement presence in the Courthouse, but this does not deter the people from using the area of the park as a toilet and trashcan.

- ♦ The key elements described above are all appropriate for this park. The concierge must have real policing power – there should be a police presence during the park's 16 hour day. The park must be visually and physically connected to the historic south entry of the Courthouse. The project should coincide with the County's effort to restore the Courthouse south entry which will require relocating the building's existing loading dock. In this proposal, Jefferson Alley would be eliminated and all connections into the Courthouse entry would be pedestrian only. Dilling Way must also be eliminated and this would greatly increase the area available for the park – Dilling Way and its small amount of parking serve no critical transportation function. The planning and execution of this project must be a joint venture between City and County governments. It must result in a direct connection of the King County Courthouse to the park as was the case historically. The park needs a large and dramatic focal point which might be a tall water fountain. A variety of venues should be accommodated as suggested above. The cannonballs monument and large trees must be preserved as was agreed between the City and the party who gave this land to the City. Park users must feel safe. The physical layout and the management of the park must be approached using common sense so that a large cross section of the public will be drawn into the park and it will be widely used.
- ♦ Currently the park is nothing more than a hang out for derelicts and transients. It's not a safe place to walk. Have seen many fights and always the sleepers in the benches and grass. I laud your attempt to clean it up, it needs it, you'll have quite a challenge. Spruce it up, add some permanent art structures, make it more visually appealing. However, making it an artsy place seems to mean street vendors selling something, would not appreciate that. Being active 16 hours a day seems to imply you have specific ideas that you would like to include but have not listed. Have basketball courts? Just asking gangs to come in. The area is predominantly active during the light hours, encouraging people after dark is just asking for the drug dealers to come in and take over. Park entrances having activity would make it more difficult to walk by or through the area. It's like the fountain across the street, I'm sure it was originally meant to make the area feel more appealing, however, it currently looks filthy, it's never on (but I suppose it was being used for baths?) and the area around the Metro elevator and stairs always have a strong urine smell. Good intentions don't always work out. Would need more information to say I approve what you're doing other than cleaning it up.
- ♦ The vision sounds good and challenging. The visual aspects will be the easiest to achieve. I would say the words that jump out to me are "safe" and "clean." I have not used the park due to the opposite.
- ♦ I have worked in the Co. Administration building since September 1979. It has only been in the last year or two the park restored to a point I might consider using at lunch. However, I walk through at 6:45 am and have felt very uncomfortable many

times. Watching people urinating or throwing up when I walked out of the bus tunnel at the Pioneer Square station was not how I wanted to start my day. (Now I walk up from 2<sup>nd</sup> up James and stay away from the park) Until the homeless “residents” in the area act within social norms, none of the “visions” will matter. This is not an area I would recommend tourists visit.

- ♦ It would be great if you could accomplish this project. Where it is situated and the proximity to problems might make this task impossible from the beginning .- kind of setting up to fail proposition.
- ♦ I think it sounds like a great idea to upgrade the park, as long as accommodations are made for the homeless.
- ♦ I love the idea! I hope it works.
- ♦ Nice idea, but where do the homeless go?
- ♦ I think it's a great idea. I would definitely use the park if I know that it's clean and safe.
- ♦ I strongly support such effort to make the current location an attraction to the neighborhood rather than somewhat avoided. This is an opportunity to turn something of an eye-sore into something we can enjoy to be around and proud of. This is good for the image of the City as well!! Keep up the good work!
- ♦ I like it. It is terribly unfortunate that when the County was spending the millions it spent to seismically upgrade the courthouse it did not make the south entrance the main public entrance. Vintage pictures show the south entrance with a grand staircase off a beautiful park. Ah, what might have been. Assuming that opportunity is lost forever, I will just concentrate on the park. Chess tables, OK, Basketball, No Way! Construction of a showpiece fountain would be nice. I'm not talking about some silly thing like the water over at the municipal Courthouse but something nice that makes a statement. A small concert stage and daily lunchtime concerts would be nice. Before the current Out to Lunch series began appearing all over town, they were held in this park. They used to play to much larger crowds that at the venues in use today. Security is probably the most important part of the vision. Get rid of the bums who use the park as a latrine, sleep on the grass, and do drugs with impunity. I am a relatively large, 6'2", 230 pound male and I don't particularly like to walk through the park in its current state.
- ♦ I think it is a fabulous vision. I concur and hope to see it happen in my tenure at King County.
- ♦ It's "The Night of the Living Dead" after 6pm in this neighborhood. It does not have surrounding businesses or upscale residents that make parks like Myrtle Edwards, Volunteer or even Cal Anderson "16 hours a day." The best idea for this park already has been scrapped, restoring the original entrance to the courthouse to increase the flow of pedestrians including court officers, council members and security personnel on this side of the building. There currently is not other reason to go there, other than to rush by, eyes averted, to get to your car or walk down to the International District (another great neighborhood that's been trashed in the past couple of years by the closure of low income buildings and the opening of "service centers" for vagrants. The beautiful trees in the park are obscured by the porta-potty, where park residents go to take drugs or have sex in exchange for drugs, and the rows of filthy sleeping bags underneath.

- ♦ The vision is okay. It might include the park as one end of a string of public spaces stretching from SODO to the Courthouse linking Occidental Plaza, Prefontaine Place, with more developed pedestrian management.
- ♦ Great, need to dry out lawns in Seattle parks.
- ♦ The concept is good and worthy of further review and improvement. I do not support this inclusion of chess tables and basketball court. Both of these elements tend to attract bums rather than workers and visitors. Somehow there's a disconnect between planners and what is actually around the park day-in and day-out. My suggestion is to build a park that strikes visitors as unique and beautiful with characteristics of an ah-inspiring design showing elements of attractiveness and relaxation. I would like to see a park with a beautiful waterfall or rapids running through the park as its central theme. Why not build something worthy of Seattle instead of building a paradise for bums and drug dealers.
- ♦ I think it's a great "vision." Being that I work in the Courthouse it would be interesting to see how you clean it up and keep it safe.
- ♦ The vision sounds great. However, how will you keep the homeless from sleeping there and taking up residence in that area? Also, what about alcohol and drug use in that area? These are my greatest concerns. If the space is open, it will be open to everyone. I see that mention that the area will be monitored by an on-site concierge – what exactly is that?
- ♦ I like the idea, but I'll believe it when I see it. It has been "Muscatel Meadows" as far back as I can remember.
- ♦ I think this is a good vision. I think there should be picnic tables that fold up as one piece so that people could use it and not have it moved away. People should get out there and eat lunch and stroll around the park. I think there should be work stations so that people can exercise. It should be an active place for all ages, not a skateboard park which is just for youth. It should draw a business crowd as that is what is here during the day and spaces with a gazebo or something for events in the evening for the community. We need to make it clear that panhandling and sleeping in the park is not allowed. People are currently afraid to use the park and that should not be the way it is in the future. Once we talked about a rose garden there too so that people would not be sleeping there.
- ♦ Love the vision - that is, if you can get it implemented and maintained as envisioned.
- ♦ Sounds good, this will make the park safer and more enjoyable. Sometimes when I visit the park, people panhandle me. I'd prefer to be left alone. This keeps me from lingering here; instead I pass through quickly.
- ♦ The PAT has wonderful ambitions for the park but I wonder at the lack of architectural description associated with the outlined vision. Is the park going to be gated and if so, is that how you'll monitor the hours of operation? How does the PAT plan to dissuade Seattle's homeless from bedding down for the night in the park? Are temporary public facilities still going to be present at the park? Will the park's grass acreage be enlarged, or will more of it be covered in concrete for proposed basketball courts and chess tables? Since you're trying to appeal to families, will playground aspects be added to the park? Other than the on-site concierge, will there be any sort of security patrols posted to dissuade drug related situations or any

other unwanted transactions from occurring? The vision is great, I'm just concerned about the specific and the means to which they will be implemented.

- ♦ Sounds a little idealistic but I'm willing to use my imagination. When the city redid the park a few years back we courthouse employees looked forward to the possibility of actually using the park, but it was taken over by residents as you call them, who have sex, sell drugs and accost people. The benches and grass are unusable and the area doesn't feel safe. I would certainly welcome any effort to clean the place up and provide for a safe and usable park for everyone.
- ♦ I think it sounds wonderful. However, where would the funding come from for this project and how will you be able to be sure that it does not just become an expensive new hangout for the local homeless and other street people that tend to frequent the Pioneer Square and surrounding areas? I think it's a nice idea, but perhaps unrealistic.
- ♦ I think it's a great idea – think the vision is on target for what most people want.
- ♦ Very well thought out.
- ♦ I think there should be a real nice park built where the Seattle Muni building used to be that will be more of a tourist destination and achieve the goals noted on your proposal. Think about the park that was built on Yesler and 2nd Ave. It only took it six months for it to get trashed by homeless people. I think that by making the City Hall Park more homeless people friendly, you can improve things for other parks in the area. They have to go somewhere and the City Hall Park is it, as close to the missions like the Morrison and other services the homeless people need. As long as those mission and those services are there, the homeless problem will also be a problem at the park.
- ♦ Great vision. May be difficult to achieve and be inclusive to all users.
- ♦ These are great ideas! I'm looking forward to seeing the changes. How about allowing small food vendors to sell in the park, like espresso stands, hotdog stands ice cream, etc. like they do in other large cities? That would be nice and would help keep workers, residents and tourists coming to the park.
- ♦ The park may attract the some people so it seems like a bad idea, maybe if it is monitored it might be okay.
- ♦ I think the vision is an excellent idea in order to make the park more enticing to visitors and residents in the area. It would be nice to eat lunch there without being panhandled, and seeing inappropriate behavior from transients. There are folks that work in 24 hour units located in the Courthouse and sometimes feel it is not safe coming to or leaving the Courthouse with the current activities happening in the park.
- ♦ The ultimate vision I have for the park simply allows business people, residents and tourists to use the park without feeling intimidated or fearful because of the high number of transients currently residing there. If there is a way to eliminate that element, I think it will be used all day by those who inhabit the downtown area.
- ♦ More emphasis on safety
- ♦ I am very pleased to read that positive changes are in store for the park. In the past and currently, the park has been a poor example. I don't think anyone walks across the park (going somewhere else because it isn't a destination) really feels that safe



or that those entering it will not be accosted by some of the transients who make the area their unlawful home.

- ♦ I think it would be a great idea. Use the work release jail mates to keep the area cleaned up and help earn their keep while incarcerated. When the tunnel is active for Metro, I had to walk between the Courthouse and the park. It certainly did not give one the feeling of security protection from panhandlers. I also feel it conveys a bad message to people visiting Seattle. I have only 30 minutes for lunch, but might be tempted to use the park in the summertime. We need more reasonably priced lunch locations for those of us that have a shorter lunch and this might encourage businesses to locate closer to the Courthouse.
- ♦ Good idea. Improve the livability of downtown. Make it a place to visit vs. a place to go out of your way to avoid.
- ♦ I think the idea sounds wonderful, but since the park is already being used by people who are homeless, and I doubt those homeless people have anywhere to go, it seems this plan would displace them. I work in the King County Courthouse, and do not like walking through the area as it is, but I have other places I can go, so I would feel bad if all of a sudden these people who have no way to get elsewhere would all of a sudden be kicked off the land they have sought out and enjoy for themselves. I am for progress, but I believe half the money spent on things like this should be spent improving the lives of the homeless in our community. Help them get clean and sober and help find them jobs.
- ♦ I think it is a great idea to make improvements as long as we know we can be safe in the park. I like it to be kept clean. I am worried about the transients that hang around the park however.
- ♦ This sounds good, but I have worked in the Administration Building for 20+ years and no matter what is done to that park it remains a place for street people to congregate in large groups. During the day, it's not scary, but it is during non-working hours. I would not sit on the benches, let alone on one and eat my lunch. I am sure that it can be cleaned up, but if the current clientele doesn't change, no one will want to be in or around the park.
- ♦ It sounds very exciting. What will you do with the homeless? While I would love to be able to enjoy the park as a park (rather than avoid it as I do now), I think the homeless must be considered with compassion.
- ♦ Move the porta-potty to the little spit of land by Yesler and put landscaping around it. And don't have it being cleaned during the morning rush hour or at lunch – that's a real turn-off to using the park. Have the vagrant population removed before 7:30 am when we start to arrive at work and their garbage cleaned up. The park would be usable without spending lots to "redo" it if population is restricted during work days. Waterfall Garden Park just down the street has someone that keeps "unwanted" out during the daytime so others can enjoy the park (of course it is locked at night so that helps reduce the garbage from vagrant population, but still..).
- ♦ Great – how about strong connections to the waterfront too? I love the parks and fully support your idea. I am a downtown resident as well as a King County employee; I would like to find a safe place for the chronically homeless rather than relegating them to Muscatel Meadows.

- ♦ Before spending money on the park, accommodations need to be made available to the homeless segment of our population who “live” in the park. The rest of us will not be able to use that space unless the other issues are resolved.
- ♦ I applaud your concept of remedying the park. But until the City and County address the homeless problem, the homeless will use the park as a reasonably safe space for daytime. That being the case there is almost nothing you can do to invite others to the space. You could provide better restroom facilities, as in Pioneer Square, but put the facilities south, not in front of the Courthouse.
- ♦ The vision sounds appealing however the reality of the neighborhood needs to be recognized. I park in the Butler garage and walk up/down James St to the Admin building daily. The sidewalks are littered with debris and smell of urine. Transients (not homeless citizens) populate the sidewalks. I occasionally reflect on the Ballisotes murder and wonder if I am enjoying a false sense of security, especially in this area. Hopefully the new park will be a successful endeavor, not a campground or tent city 7. If the City can pull this off, kudos to them.
- ♦ As far as Muscatel Meadows is concerned, remember that this area is at the heart of County government! This is where citizens come to get a marriage license! This is where citizens come for jury duty! This is where citizens come to renew their tabs, or handle and other business with King County government. I’ve worked in the Courthouse for only the last seven years. If anything it’s gotten worse.
- ♦ I want to know how you are going to keep the homeless and transient that use the park now out? How are they going to keep it clean? As it is now, Third Ave on Monday mornings is a disgrace! The entrance to the tunnel on Third and Yesler is filthy, smelly and drugs are being dealt right in front of your eyes. People urinating right in front of you. I have also seen excrement on the steps going down to the tunnel and on elevators. There is vomit on the floor or on the walls of the elevators. There is urine on the walls of the Courthouse! I would think money would be better spent making an effort to keep the streets clean and druggies away from the area. If we can’t keep the streets and the tunnel safe and clean, what makes you think you can do the same for the park?
- ♦ The vision is fine but unless you remove the vagrants, panhandlers and filth from the park, working people will continue to avoid it. The park does not belong to working folks at this time.
- ♦ The problem of transitioning residents would definitely need to be resolved before I spent any time there. Where will they go? How many are there? What’s the process to find them appropriate shelter if they show up in the park? If there currently shelter nearby, why are so many sleeping in the park? I’m more concerned finding them shelter and safety issues than the extra perks of a park nearby.
- ♦ The general public has not been able to use this park due to transients making them feel unsafe. I have had people come into the Courthouse, jurors etc. and say “I was just asked to by some dope” or they saw people drinking and it made them feel unsafe. This has been going on for years and SPD has not been able to patrol it on a regular basis. That’s why this happens, no police presence.
- ♦ How can you plan all this “beauty” when you have transients openly going to the bathroom under the trees, laying all over the grass and taking over benches. I’m 56 and don’t want to eat my lunch there! I hated walking through it to go to the tunnel getting sneers from bench warmers. The first thing you see as you come up the

“elevator urinal” from the tunnel is people urinating in the elevator. Good luck with your pipe dream. You’re living at a time when the population has no respect for themselves or others. Take a look at the graffiti covering the murals on the bus way.

- ♦ What are your plans to displace the overwhelming transient population, and therefore ensuring that safety of park patrons? What is your vision for monitoring the park for illegal activity?
- ♦ I think this is a wonderful, but totally unrealistic vision. Has anyone in the committee ever tried to eat his or her lunch in the park? It is constantly occupied by addicts, gangsters and other unsavory people who make this a dangerous and filthy place to be.
- ♦ First of all, thank you for asking our opinions. I really appreciate it. I think Seattle Parks and Recreation (and the City of Seattle) did a great job renovating Cal Anderson Park on Capitol Hill. I LOVE that park. It feels safe and it is clean and well maintained. I love the fact that children, adults and animals can use the park peacefully together. I am worried about the ability to do the same type of renovation at City Hall Park. I’ve worked for the County for over 15 years and I have never like People’s Park ala City Hall Park. It is a cesspool of crime and drugs. The park and outlying areas reek of urine and garbage. I’ve seen people defecate, vomit and expose themselves in and around the park. I’ve called 911 numerous times to report illegal drug activity and assaults in the park. I would love for the park to be a safe place for all people to gather. I think the large number of homeless and mentally ill people who live in this area may negatively affect the park. I am especially concerned about the high number of registered sex offenders who live in nearby shelters. It would be unethical to encourage people to bring their children to the park without letting them know about this high number of sex offenders in the area. The park would need to be patrolled, well maintained and well lit. It would also be great to have surveillance cameras in place to record/document illegal activity in the park. I’m sorry if I sound a little negative, I am just jaded from years of exposure. I am really glad and hopeful something will be done to improve the park and make it a safe place for everyone.
- ♦ Good idea – The park has the potential to be a beautiful, peaceful downtown retreat. But, the park will need something more than being monitored by an “on-site” concierge. Recent attempts to clean the park have failed. The park is known as “Muscatel Meadows” and has been taken over by transients. Most people don’t think of going to the park for lunch or a nice peaceful break because of panhandlers and the strong smell of urine permeating throughout the park. Police and City maintenance workers have not been able to make the park a safe and clean place to visit. People go out of their way to avoid it.
- ♦ Your vision is great but not realistic. If you have ever spent any time in that area, you know the population and who uses the park. It will never be a welcoming place for families, the elderly, etc. unless the current users are no longer there. People sleeping on the benches and on the grass, yelling at themselves, etc. do not provide a welcoming, pleasant experience for most of us.
- ♦ Gee, where would the drug addicts be able to transact business? Where would the alcoholics be able to sleep and go to the bathroom? Where would the beggars solicit money? This is too small a park for basketball which would rive those seeking to spend lunch hour there out. Currently most KC employees will walk a block out of their way to avoid the park. The park appears to be poorly patrolled by SPD. I think

the park would for some time require an active police presence in order to retract the years of unfavorable stigma attached to Muscatel Meadows. In order for the park to become successful in the future (not near future), something needs to be done to control the persons across the street from the bus stop at the fountain from selling drugs in public and panhandling aggressively. If activities of the surrounding are not well controlled, it will matter little what you do with this park. I know of few City or County employees who currently use the park. If you police it there will be more gains. If you don't it matters little how you change the park in my opinion.

- ♦ It sounds like a great idea, but I have mixed feelings about it. My concern is what will happen to all the homeless people who currently use the park during the day. As the King County Courthouse is a public building, the park should be accessible to all citizens, however if it remains the same homeless citizens that are already using the park, I feel that it will prevent all the potential people that the vision is hoping for. I personally don't want the homeless to be displaced, but I also won't use a park that is full of homeless people.
- ♦ There are not enough attractions in Seattle that one can be proud of. At one time Seattle was the envy of the US with its brave architecture, progressive parks and interesting urban planning. However, politicians are now afraid to do anything and the deterioration of the surrounding city-space proves my point. We should harness Seattle's talents and recapture our leadership in architecture, parks and city planning as was shown in the building of the main library. Unfortunately Seattle appears run down and overpopulated with bums drug dealers and street beggars. Bums and street beggars are a serious problem in Seattle. Apparently politicians and police are blind to the problems connected to this population. Crossing King County Courthouse park, I frequently witness illegal drug transactions, fist fights, trash, people relieving themselves. It appears to me that our parks are overrun with bums, drug sellers and street beggars. You need to clean house before you can start thinking in terms of a building a world class park. Otherwise the new park will just become another haven for bums, drug sellers and street beggars. And, as usual, workers visitors and common law-abiding folks are left with nothing but fear.
- ♦ I feel strongly that the main impediment to public use of the park is the insistence on allowing people to live there. It is apparently a (misguided in my opinion) City public policy and could be changed with some simple adjustments to the facility, guidelines for use, and a set of behavior standards that are enforced on a regular basis.
- ♦ Good luck! So far, being an employee of the Courthouse for the past 20+ years, I have never been able to use the park since there has never been a clean seat that I would sit on. There seems to be no desire to keep the homeless population from sleeping, eating and leaving trash, doing drugs, peeing and other body functions yet. I don't think that this will ever happen. We can sit in our building and sort of hear the music of the summer shows, but I would not go into the park as I don't feel safe there. You are going to have to have a lot more police visible to make this vision a reality.
- ♦ The vision is great of course – creative, thoughtful, very inviting. What a great Park it might be if even half of these qualities were present. The devil – as the cliché goes – is in the details. How do we, as a user community, make this happen? We can't just “disappear” the street folks, and now that the City has ousted the feeding program and moved it to City Hall Park, its becoming even more, if possible, of an institution for street-based human service needs. That's a pretty radical shift from what's there

now: the street population, homeless overnight sleepers, dark and unsafe, to the future you describe.

- ♦ Such a grand vision. My vision is tempered by the view outside my window. The park is strewn with garbage and seagulls are picking at it. Stretched out in the middle of the lawn on this chilly November morning is someone sleeping under a mound of blankets. It is separated from the courthouse by an alley, a loading dock and industrial sized dumpster. Hence it is disconnected from the structure that most naturally would lend itself to the perception of safety, purpose and active use of the park.
- ♦ It sounds lovely, but it's going to take a lot of work including 24 hr a day supervision to change it from the dump it has been into something people who work in the area will want to use. In the past there have been concerts and other activities to lure workers there but there was no enforcement of park rules any other time and it deteriorated into a camp and daytime flop area. Especially on weekends it was filthy and packed, and if you parked nearby, you were hassled all the way into the Courthouse for money and drugs, and cars were vandalized routinely. The people who provided and received food didn't clean up the litter they left after meals. I am skeptical that the enforcement and supervision will last very long. I don't mean to be a naysayer, but I've worked for the County, mostly in the Courthouse since 1983 and have walked through a lot of trash, and stepped around blood, vomit, passed out bodies and human waste more times than I can recall. Good luck. It will be wonderful if it works.
- ♦ As the park now exists, it is probably the most disgusting place in downtown Seattle. It is a reflection on King County and Seattle when visitors come to the King County Courthouse or Administration Building to do business. It's not the park itself but rather the dozens of homeless people camped out there and all of the trash that they just throw around that makes it so bad. Unless something is done to find these people someplace else to camp, it doesn't matter what is done to the grounds. I appreciate the plight of some of these individuals but it is no more appropriate to allow status quo as it would be for Seattle to allow camping out in front of the new City Hall. In addition, I have witnessed on many occasions 2 or more people coming out of the porta-potty or someone knocking on the door and whoever is inside letting them in. It is obvious that drugs or sex or something else inappropriate is occurring (maybe they are just having a business meeting).
- ♦ I never go to the park south of the courthouse or by the entrance to the bus tunnel because the people who are there scare me. I tried to eat my lunch there once and had a person come out and want money from me and he smelled so bad that I could not finish my lunch. You can smell urine where people go by the trees and planters. There would have to be more patrols.
- ♦ The vision sounds wonderful, however my question to you is, "Is it realistic?" We look at the efforts put forth over the past 20 years in the redevelopment of Pioneer Square area both in business and parks and still see evidence of reasons to feel unsafe at any time of day. The issues related to crime, panhandling, homelessness, that produce, harassment, etc. Would need to be dealt with no differently than down in Pioneer Square. What will happen to the street people that occupy the park most of the time? Unfortunately the type of business that has developed in the Pioneer Square area have become breeding ground for violence. Those businesses which were developed to serve the sport events attendees. We would not linger in this part

of town in the evening before or after a sport event. That same feeling pervades the County Admin City Hall – Courthouse neighborhoods as well. We come to work here and leave before one feels susceptible to harassment by others from the street. We need to address the homeless issue equally. Why redevelop a park which will be primarily used by those who are there already?

- ♦ Won't do any good. No matter what you do to this park, the homeless are going to take it over using it for a bedroom and bathroom. This will make the park unfit, unsafe and unsanitary for any other users. I have worked next to this area for over 18 years and it has never been for anyone else but the homeless and their garbage and bodily fluids. It is unsafe.
- ♦ I believe the park should suggest a formality in design relating to the adjacent classic architecture it sits in front of. Perhaps it should be gated as is common for urban parks built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This could also help control the questionable nighttime activity.
- ♦ Perhaps too obvious--no drug use and no public urination or defecation. Not sure how you get there. Last summer, 2004, I think there were several assaults in the park. Since I am in the south end now, not aware of what it is like this summer.
- ♦ I appreciate your asking. I am new to working at the Court house. It would be really nice if we had a park we could sit in and eat our lunches or relax. However, there is the strong smell of urine and usually the park is full of the homeless individuals.
- ♦ They at least need to get a better system or a different company to change the porta-potty on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It stinks, even from a distance. This should be short range planning, obviously. Long range, I'll think about.
- ♦ I not only "live" for 8-10 hours next to the park daily, but I walk past the park a lot at night when returning from Mariner games. I would be happy just to have it clean and patrolled regularly by police. Actual physical presence would go a long way to stop the hassling, begging and drug deals.
- ♦ Finally, the porta-potty is disgusting and an embarrassment given its proximity to the courthouse. I know these folks need these facilities but there must be a way to provide it and not compromise the dignity of the courthouse and those who use it.
- ♦ City Hall Park should be a dignified, clean place that reflects the pride of Seattle. I know you know all of these things but this is just a confirmation of it.
- ♦ I simply hope what comes out of this is not the same as the last review/study for the park. (maybe there have been more than one, time flies).. anyway what I recall is that many people simply wanted the homeless to go away. I don't particularly want to sit on the grass with a lot of the people who now can be seen there, but there has to be some compromise. It seems that the illegal activity has been reduced dramatically in the last few years. Also there is less violence. What ever has been done to achieve the change from the old "muscatel meadows" has been good for everyone. Maybe a couple more benches would be nice.
- ♦ I have been troubled for years about the park next door and how the city could improve the park and at the same time provide other "green space" areas for the homeless.
- ♦ I recently visited Portland, Oregon and found out two simple (quick fix) tasks that help keep their downtown area parks clean and used only in the daytime hours. Each night (365) no matter what the weather, the park department waters the lawn

and flower beds. They also each day, between 2:00 am and 5:00 am, pressure wash the sidewalks of all the streets in the downtown core, the sidewalks, and fountains around all of their city parks, government buildings and any other public use areas where people congregate. Of course, the lawn may have to be mowed twice per week instead of once, with all of the watering, but I believe that these simple solutions would help to alleviate some of the problems that we are experiencing. I understand that water is a precious resource but so are the public use areas and buildings of Seattle and King County.

- ♦ The current “state” of the park next door is disgraceful. I would like my family and friends as well as the public to be able to visit the courthouse without feeling uncomfortable about the smell, the garbage and the people that they encounter. As public servants, we have an obligation to try to recapture the beauty and grace of our government buildings and surrounding park areas and maintain those areas for future generations.
- ♦ I think it would be quite beautiful if the park could combine raised vegetable and flower beds along with new benches and picnic tables. Court employees would love picnic tables to eat lunch and the raised beds would reduce the space for transients to lie down and sleep. Perhaps the vegetable gardens could be tended by a joint venture between Downtown Emergency Services and the Parks department where the current transients could eat or sell the food produced. There are a number of videos out of San Francisco about the benefits of vegetable gardening for incarcerated persons and those on probation. I would be happy to lend the videos if you would be interested.
- ♦ Additionally, I heard the Park’s Department is also improving Occidental Park near Pioneer Square where it has been suggested that they cut down trees to decrease the drug transactions in the area. I sincerely hope the Park’s Department will preserve the trees at “City Hall Park”.
- ♦ I would like to point out that all citizens should feel welcome in the park, so long as there is no unlawful conduct such as drug use or drinking. There are too few places in our city for the least fortunate among us to gather, particularly downtown. This neighborhood, near the foot of historic skid row has been a gathering spot for disadvantaged persons for over a century. The park needs attention, but it would be unjust to “gentrify” the park with the goal of displacing them from one of the rare relatively safe havens for them.
- ♦ I saw the New York Public Library face and solve the same problem in the 1980’s. Their park is adjacent to that building on its west side. The vision of the space was (and for us) should be simple: a clean space populated with ordinary people. Our park is already well planted; if grass and benches were restored it would be adequate. As I recall the NY library, police became a solid presence for a time immediately after the park was re-opened (it was simply closed off for a time while publicity was mounted—it was good, clear, straightforward public relations, all done in a very positive way, fairly low key—so potential users of the revitalized park would know about it). It re-opened with food vendors, coffee and soft drinks, and regularly presented activities (noon chamber music concerts, mimes, jugglers: interesting, quiet things). People were encouraged to come, sit and read if they liked. It began in late Spring so there was a long run of good weather, enabling users to become reacquainted with the space. It turned around and became a pleasant oasis in midtown Manhattan.

- ♦ My vision for the park is that it be a place where both the homeless and mentally ill folks, as well as we “chronic normals”, can enjoy and feel safe and welcome. Drug/alcohol use and hygiene are the obvious issues.
- ♦ Essentially, the park is forsaken ground for all who work at the courthouse or visit as jurors and litigants. The fact that the park is a drug market and serves as a makeshift open homeless shelter speaks to the lack of appropriate facilities. My vision is that there would be a park near the courthouse where jurors would feel comfortable sitting for lunch. It would be place where people feel safe. It would not stink like an overused portable toilet. It would have some degree of grounds maintenance. It would not be a construction staging area. I also understand that those in the park need a place to go. If it is to continue as forsaken ground, it needs a real restroom facility cleaned more than once a day.
- ♦ I would suggest moving the latrine before it becomes tagged as a historical landmark
- ♦ This is the core area where they get services, food, bathrooms, etc.....The reality is that displacing them will create a hardship for having these services near to the shelters where they live. I would encourage the plan to include some accommodation concerning this. Sometimes the gentrification projects forget that there are real people, whose lives may be different from our own, who also need to be considered
- ♦ I think it's hopeless to work on a “vision” as long as the clientele are there, and I don't see them going anywhere. I sure would like to see that porta-potty moved though! Stinko!
- ♦ If I had my way we would restore the south side of our building to be an entrance again, and the park would serve the entrance (which would also put it under security's eye and stop the drug dealing and using which is currently a constant.)